

Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw Review – FAQs

Why is the Council bringing in these new regulations now?

- Council must review the Trade Waste and Wastewater Drainage Bylaws now to meet legal timeframes, but we are proposing a phased approach to implementing any new regulations in recognition of the current pressures being faced by our business community.

What is trade waste and what is wastewater?

- Trade waste is liquid waste generated by any industrial or commercial premises. This usually goes into the Napier City Council wastewater network (the sewers) to be treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Awatoto.
- The term wastewater refers to liquid waste generated by residential dwellings and other premises. It too is treated at the Awatoto WWTP. Domestic wastewater is what goes down the drain or toilet in your household.

Why do we need to control what is discharged?

- Trade waste and wastewater can contain substances that damage our infrastructure and marine environment. In order to make sure the network can cope and that the impact on the environment is minimised, the Bylaw regulates the quality and quantity of what goes into our wastewater network. The Bylaw also allows Council to enforce pre-treatment requirements and recover a fair share of network maintenance from network users.

Who will the proposed bylaw apply to?

- The new Bylaw will have a much wider application than the current one. Under the proposed Bylaw, If you are a commercial or industrial premises that is producing more liquid waste than that of a large household (more than 5m³ per day), and/or may contain substances with composition or strength that may be harmful to the wastewater system, you will need to apply for a trade waste consent.
- Affected business may include:
 - o Food processing/retail premises
 - o Process/manufacturing operations
 - o Chemical processing/production
 - o Waste management services
 - o Petrol station/car wash
 - o Laundromat/dry cleaners
 - o Funeral homes
 - o Hospitality venues
- If you are not sure if you are captured by this, please feel free to get in touch with us through NCC Customer Services, who will put you through to the Environmental Team.

What are we proposing to change from the current bylaws?

- We are proposing to refine our pre-treatment requirements and expand our trade waste consenting regime. These changes all support the goal of better environmental outcomes for Ahuriri. Full details on the proposed changes are contained in the statement of proposal available on Sayitnapier.nz.

What outcomes is the proposed Bylaw seeking to achieve?

- The Bylaw review seeks to improve the overall management of trade waste and wastewater in Napier with the ultimate goals of:
 - o Improving environmental outcomes through increased water treatment quality
 - o Creating a fairer system whereby everyone contributes a fair share toward the maintenance of the wastewater network
 - o Minimising issues in the network such as sewer blockages
 - o Changing attitudes towards wastewater and people using the drain as a bin
 - o Ensuring that 'Te mana o te wai' and the vital importance of water are respected in any wastewater regime.

What will this mean for rates?

- The cost of owning and operating the Wastewater Network will be split into a 'domestic' portion, which will be covered by rates, and a 'trade waste' portion, which will be covered by charges calculated using the Trade Waste Charging Model.
- This is intended to be a 'user pays' system where low users and those operators who treat their trade waste to a better quality, will pay less.

How can I find out more and have my say?

- The proposed Integrated Bylaw and Administration Manual will be available online at www.sayitnapier.nz or at NCC Customer Services/Napier Libraries from Monday 28th March to Wednesday 25th May.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant will be holding open days on the first weekend of May. Book a spot and come along to find out what happens to all the water once it disappears down the drain, how it is treated and where it all goes (*hint: East of Awatoto*). Wastewater can have a big impact on our environment, and everyone is responsible for minimising pollution.
- More sessions will be held with industry groups during the consultation period. If you would like to be part of one of these, please get in touch.

How would the proposed changes affect my existing trade waste consent?

- All new trade waste consents will be issued under the proposed Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw 2022 and existing trade waste consents will be re-issued under this Bylaw when they are due.
- There will be time before the Bylaw comes in to effect for businesses to make changes to activities needed to comply with the Bylaw. The exact details of this will be announced later in 2022.

Will hospitality businesses be considered trade waste operators?

- Yes, all food premises will require trade waste consents and must have a grease trap installed. Grease traps must have a functional capacity of 500L and 2 hours peak flow retention time (when all the taps upstream of the grease traps are turned on fully, it takes 2 hours for the water to flow through the grease trap and into the Wastewater Network (the sewer). Grease traps must also be serviced and maintained regularly, according to guidelines in the Bylaw and Administration Manual.

My food premises already has an alternative grease removal system in place that does not meet new requirements, does it need to be upgraded?

- If there is a FOG removal system already in place, increased monitoring will be done to ensure that the system is performing adequately and being serviced and maintained properly. If the quality criteria contained in Schedule A of the Administration Manual is met, the system may remain in place. If three tests fail to meet this criteria, the system must be upgraded.

What can I do with waste that cannot be discharge to the sewer?

- A qualified contractor must remove the waste and take it to an industrial treatment plant.

How will council know if everyone is following the rules?

- The proposed Bylaw will be supported by Council through a robust monitoring programme. For businesses holding a trade waste permit, this may include taking regular samples of their discharge and submitting these for monitoring. There may also be random sampling and inspection of pre-treatment methods to ensure ongoing compliance.
- All suspected bylaw breaches will be investigated with the option to prosecute under the Bylaw being used as a last resort.

What can businesses do to improve trade waste quality?

- Business can take practical steps to reduce the level of waste they produce and the quality of what is going down the drain.
 - o **Practical steps include:**
 - disposing of greasy waste and food scraps into the rubbish bin
 - never putting oil down the sink
 - training staff on why it is important to keep fats, oils and grease out of drains and sewers
 - installing and maintaining grease traps/grease interceptors
 - arranging waste oil to be collected by a licensed waste contractor.